

PEACE NEWS

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Mr. Bevin's leaven must work

THERE are gleams of light on the dark horizon. It counts for something in a bewildered world that a British Foreign Secretary can speak such words in Parliament as Mr. Bevin spoke on Friday last. "The supreme act of Government is, after all, the horrible duty of deciding matters which affect the life or death of the people. That rests in this House as far as this country is concerned. I would merge that power

Observer's Commentary

into a greater power of a directly elected world assembly . . . I am willing to sit with anybody, of any party, of any nation to try to devise either a franchise or a constitution for a world assembly, with a limited objective—the objective of peace. From the moment you accept that, one other phrase goes, and that is "international law." That phrase presupposes conflict between nations. It would be substituted by "world law," with a moral world force behind it, rather than a law built on case-made law and on agreements. It would be a world law, with a world judiciary to interpret it, with a world police to enforce it, with the decision of the people with their own votes, resting in their own hands, irrespective of race or creed, as the great world sovereign elected authority which would hold in its care the destinies of the peoples of the world."

Britain will never be able to go back on that. And however far the vision seems from realization at the moment, the leaven will work. There will be a response to this vision of world-democracy. "The common man is the great protection against war," said Mr. Bevin. Mr. Bevin has spoken for him.

2 to 1 against Communism

MR. BEVIN'S statement, and the manifest honesty and candour of his policy, will, I believe, do much (though gradually) to resolve the tension of European politics towards democracy. It is becoming clear that the dynamic political forces on the European continent are divided, roughly in the proportion of two to one, between democratic Socialism and Communism. So long as Communism, following the Moscow star, is anti-democratic in principle, and opposed to the idea of a democratic society of nations, so long will democratic government be precarious on the European continent. But when the moral leadership of the common man begins to pass from Moscow, then the Communist influence in European politics will begin to decline. Who speaks more faithfully for the common man of Europe today: Bevin or Stalin? I believe it is Bevin; and that the effects will show.

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

WORLD GOVERNMENT

IN our last appeal we wrote that what the world needed was a statesman with courage to propose world government now. The response has been remarkable. Not so much in terms of monetary contribution—though we gratefully acknowledge that—as of political developments which are also a matter of concern to us.

Already competent statesmen are talking of world government as practical politics; whilst the newspaper we quoted on the collective stupidity of man, the danger of an early end to civilized society and the need for leaders with vision returns to the theme with a new note of hopefulness.

"An idea which has hitherto been regarded by politicians as Utopian was for the first time urged as realistic policy from a Front Bench of the House of Commons."

Respectful, even cautiously sympathetic, attention is reported from the thoughtful part of the American press.

Many Peace News readers may remain sceptical and not without reason. But when the Utopias of yesterday are being put forward

"SAVE EUROPE NOW": MoF TURNS DOWN ALL EIGHT PROPOSALS

SHALL SIR BEN KEEP OUR CONSCIENCE?

- ask Albert Hall speakers

THE MINISTER OF FOOD HAS TURNED DOWN FLATLY ALL EIGHT PROPOSALS PUT TO HIS DEPARTMENT BY THE RECENT "SAVE EUROPE NOW" DEPUTATION. THIS WAS REVEALED BY MEMBERS OF THAT DEPUTATION AT MONDAY'S GREAT ALBERT HALL MEETING.

Thus the hopes raised last week by the Minister's cautious reply to an MP have been dashed, and efforts in this country to save Europe from starvation must be redoubled.

The Archbishop of York presided at the Albert Hall meeting, and the distinguished speakers "from all parties and none" hurried off to address overflow meetings at Holy Trinity Church.

His Grace declared that unless vigorous action were taken now Europe faced a tragedy, unparalleled in size and horror. They were there to assure the Government of support in every step they could take to send relief to the stricken countries. It was wrong that the guilt of the men who had been the leaders of Germany should fall upon innocent children, and they must ask that the mass deportations, which were so greatly aggravating the problem, should cease, at least for the winter. He appealed to American generosity, upon which the main burden must lie. "The victors will be judged at the bar of humanity," he said, "by the way in which they answered the cry of the multitudes who are in such tragic distress."

Sir Arthur Salter, MP, said that while all Europe would be cold and hungry this winter, in the East-Centre millions would starve. In the great cities of the Centre, even if all the food were equitably distributed there was only about half the amount available to maintain minimum standards. In Germany and Austria there would almost certainly be mass starvation—and at the best, misery and enfeeblement.

The actual destruction of war was not the insuperable factor. Neither food, nor raw materials, nor ships were in short supply. For our part, we could release military reserves now and civilian reserves as soon as our imports were assured again.

Mr. Michael Foot, MP, said that meeting was called to express the conscience of the country.

If the responsibility for starting the war rested with Germans, the responsibility for ending it rested with us. We had gone to war for a principle, and they were appealing to that same spirit which had enabled them to endure. "If Germany goes down in chaos then all Europe goes down with her. These children—are they the War Criminals?" he asked.

Mr. Robert Boothby, MP, held with Robert Louis Stevenson, that "There is a kind of decency to be observed." Our people had not fought to make a desert of Central Europe. He would add to the proposals in the resolution: Reduce the swollen armies of occupation. In Austria they amounted to one-third of "a population that has shown not the slightest inclination to resist."

Miss Eleanor Rathbone, MP, told how the deputation has laid the evidence of 60,000 offers of voluntary help in this country before Sir Ben Smith. "We made 10 proposals, and begged him, if he could not accept any of them, to make proposals of his own. Two of the proposals were outside the

scope of his Ministry, but as to the other eight—he would have none of them. In his reply he makes his attitude clear when he writes:

"I am opposed to anything which would bring pressure to bear on people to surrender food to the detriment of their health or the health of their families."

"He knows best what is good for us. Frankly, Sir Ben," went on Miss Rathbone, "we don't like that Führer attitude."

Mr. R. R. Stokes, MP, described the deportation at half-an-hour's notice of a whole town. A serving officer had told him that "Central Europe as it crawls from East to West resembles nothing so much as a vast Belsen."

Lt.-Col. Rees-Williams, MP, a recent Chief Legal Officer, Military Government, Berlin Area, spoke of the effect of events on "that impartial exponent of policies, good and bad—the soldier, who pays for mistakes, often with his life." In European Fair, published by Servicemen and ATS in Berlin, it was clear that the men on the spot believed that our policy "will sow the seeds of the next war."

Air Vice-Marshal Champion de Crespigny outlined a scheme for the air rescue for the winter months of thousands of young children. "The snow is already on the German ground, and conditions deteriorate daily. There is nothing that the RAF would rather do," he said.

Mr. Victor Gollancz wound up the meeting. They gave notice, he said, that if our vast stocks, which he estimated at 4½ million tons—three times our peacetime level—were used to increase our own rations this "would be a grave affront to the national conscience." The talk about our own ill-health was shoddy disingenuousness. "If you don't trust the evidence of statistics, trust that of your own eyes."

Mr. Gollancz said it was apparent to the deputation which he had taken to the Minister that what stood in their way was the determination of Sir Ben "not to allow us to impair our own health. But we are free citizens of a free democracy."

"Sir Ben must be reminded that he is not the keeper of our consciences, but a temporary Minister in a temporary Government."

After all the suffering of war, were they not allowed to make this tiny sacrifice for conciliation? He protested against extra Christmas rations "given us, admittedly, for our

... CANNOT MAKE A HEAVEN IN OUR OWN

COUNTRY AND LEAVE A HELL OUTSIDE

MORAL PRECEPTS . . . CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE

... MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER

ment Attlee . Washington . 13 11 45



Heaviness

Reproduced by courtesy of the Manchester Evening News.

jollification" while there were children in Europe whose lives they might save. He asked that meeting to remind the world of the true spirit of Christmas—"not more sugar or fats for our own bellies while our neighbours starve, but practical charity in the hour when mercy is most needed."

The Resolution to be sent to the Prime Minister, asked for control of expulsions; a maximum contribution from our own stocks; and the acceptance of a scheme for voluntary contributions. It asked for an example of "far-sighted generosity."

"do right because it is right to do so"

I CANNOT accept the view that the policy of His Majesty's Government must be based entirely on the "Big Three." I recognize, as was said yesterday, that they are great Powers which, if exercising their responsibilities aright and justly, can be a great umbrella for the security and peace of millions throughout the world. But if an ambassador, or representative, or a foreign secretary visits me to discuss a matter between his nation and ours, I cannot allow myself for one moment to consider whether he represents a great nation or a small one . . .

I would be failing in my duty if I did not try to decide the issue on the basis of the facts, and do right because it was right to do right—not because of my fears of what might happen if I did wrong. That is the principle upon which we must work, and I hope that will not be interpreted as being antagonistic to anybody. It does not matter whether it is a small nation or a big one. To me they are human beings . . . We must have regard to their history, their culture, their contribution and their civilizing influence—and I would say that civilizing influence is not determined by the volume of armaments you have got, but by the cultural development that you possess.

—Mr. Ernest Bevin, House of Commons, Nov. 23.

PEACE NEWS

Voice of the common man

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

P.P.U. Column

PEACE, PLEDGE AND PEOPLE

PACIFISTS feel a certain scepticism about the Charters, Organizations, Councils of statesmen and other current political incantations designed to induce a little unity among the United Nations.

But the suspicion that the highest level of political action too often resembles the lowest level of human wisdom is mitigated by a cautious optimism about common humanity. If, we feel, there is to be peace, it must come from the people to the politicians.

This is not a doctrine that one expects to hear from the professional politician himself. PPU members may therefore be expected to sit up and take notice when the British Foreign Secretary says, as Mr. Bevin did on Nov. 23: "There has never been a war yet which, if the facts had been put before the common folk, could not have been prevented. The common man is the greatest protection against war." The next day Mr. Noel-Baker, head of the British Delegation on the Preparatory Commission, told that august body that "There is no people in the world, without any exception, who would allow their Government to start another war."

That being so, what are we waiting for? Is Mr. Bevin about to propose unilateral disarmament? Apparently not. For the Truman-Atlee-Mackenzie King talks on the atom-bomb suggested no such happy millennium.

Fine words, in fact, but no parsnips. If the common man is to protect us from war, if the peoples are to restrain their Governments from war, they must not only think the thought but do the deed—personally, in order that the nation may do it corporately. Mr. Bevin's statement means the Pledge. "I renounce war and I will never support or sanction another," or it means next to nothing. The significant thing is that even the statesman now looks longingly to the pacifism of ordinary people for his will-o'-the-wisp security.

"I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER."

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Further information from: General Secretary, PPU, Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., London, W.C.1.

It should come as a challenge to pacifists to reflect that most people in their neighbourhood heard these sentiments from Mr. Bevin rather than from the local PPU group. This is the historical moment at which the common people may see the urgent necessity of joining hands across all frontiers to prevent their statesmen from precipitating disaster.

From Dick Sheppard House we try to keep in touch with and encourage a dozen different ways of expressing that message: through personal example, in daily work, by social service, and in public action of other kinds. Our posters quoting the King's Speech, the Atlantic Charter and the Archbishop of Canterbury, and those featuring our own well loved authorities Dick Sheppard and George Lansbury, and the Pledge poster, ought to be seen in your district, and the newly-published leaflets "War Balance-Sheet," "Atom Peace" and "The Hungry" should find a way into every home. We shall do a vital community service by bringing the sentiments of statesmen to the test of action.

ROY WALKER.

Conscription - the Gadfly

WHY is it so imperative that conscription should be removed? Is it the evil that one would have us believe? Is France, for example, the worse for having conscription as a natural event in her life? It is surely not wrong nor folly that the world should prepare itself for the inevitable, and there is no doubt that men still regard war as inevitable, even now, after the atomic bomb and the rest. To abolish conscription now is to encourage the belief that war is behind us, when really it is always somewhere in front. Conscription can be the gadfly to stir men from their slumbers, keeping them watchful guardians of the timorous Peace.

We all need a gadfly. Before the war we were too ready to accept words, and forget that deeds alone matter. Our list of signatories to the Peace Pledge was impressive, but we know now, to our chagrin, that a scrap of paper binds no one, man or nation. Suppose we succeed in removing conscription. We shall fall back into that complacent state of believing that all is well, that war is not again going to overturn our lives and engulf us; and we shall forget the military staffs.

What about income tax!

Compulsion irritates to say the least, but it is accepted in many forms. Children must go to school, income tax must be paid, a man must work to live—and certain obligations to society must be met. Conscription makes the individual face up to the latter. A new responsibility is thrust upon him and he realises that he has a selfish interest in maintaining the peace of the world. It is a curious fact also that many men hear of conscientious objectors for the first time only when they themselves become soldiers. Thus they are brought into contact with an alternative point of view, which they will either accept or reject. If they accept it, we rejoice; if they reject it, we redouble our efforts, or we can again rejoice, that a man is doing what he honestly believes to be right.

It is also objected that conscription is wrong and unfair because it will touch only the young. That is true if we regard the young as forming an isolated, helpless group in the community, like a flock of sheep at the mercy of the wolf. But they are not. They are part of the family and look to their parents for guidance and advice. If parents are for conscription, it is useless for us to plead on behalf of the young, who will find it hard to

set their face against parents and friends. What we have to do is to change the cry: "I have done my bit, you must now do yours," into: "I know what it means and you are not going to suffer it."

Conscription, therefore, carries the seeds of its own decay. To remove it immediately is only pandering to the aftermath of war weariness, making way for the old comfortable apathy. What we want is a vigorous, permanent opposition to it, and we are a long way at present from having that.

A. H. GERRARD.

The two Frances - and Germanies

To the Editor

I AM afraid the Laval-De Gaulle controversy needs more space than a single letter. However, I shall endeavour to answer the questions put to me.

I have never approved the way in which Laval was tried. Many of the French newspapers disapproved of the trial, too. I myself consider Daladier and Reynaud and their Government as guilty as Laval. We French people were materially and morally unprepared in 1939.

To have declared war in those conditions is a crime, for nothing but defeat and its consequences could ensue. However I am convinced that Nazi Germany would have attacked France sooner or later. In that case our moral position would have been far better, and though the consequences might have been the same Pétain and Laval could not have supported Germany's plea that we declared war.

As a pacifist, I was in favour of the Armistice in 1940, but I never approved of the Vichy régime and its pro-fascist methods. Moreover, politically, Pétain made no end of mistakes, the main one being that the more remote a German victory appeared, the more eager he and Laval were to help to achieve it.

The French realized gradually that collaboration was nothing but a dupe. True collaboration means that Germany and France should have been on an equal footing with each other. Do not forget that the Germans are mainly responsible for the black market. If they had been true collaborators they would have suppressed it by leaving us enough to eat and to clothe ourselves through normal channels.

The "therefore" of my preceding letter can be explained thus: The people of France, distrustful of the Vichy leaders, inclined to and often took an attitude of opposition.

Tom Everard's statement concerning the

development of the Maquis is quite right. However the hoarding of money by the French peasants through the black market can hardly be called moral. Moreover no one can fairly say that the Germans were loved by the French during the occupation. To say the least, they were very unpopular. The number of forced labourers who do not wish to return to France is very small; mostly those without family in France who have married and settled in Germany. I quite agree that apart from the concentration camps and the bombing, life in Germany was tolerable enough. The Germans have lived for four years on the looting of Europe and have left the Continent bare and empty.

If Mr. Niven is a pacifist and knows France as well as he says he does, I wonder he keeps so many prejudices towards that country. I think it is one of the main tasks of a pacifist to get rid of national prejudices and antagonisms. I do not think France is a country always prone to duplicity and cruelty. When some of her leaders, judges or citizens are, I, as a pacifist, protest against it.

EFFECTS OF OCCUPATION

A Frenchman could rightly criticize the British for many good reasons, but it is not the job of a pacifist to do it. As regards to France, I think Mr. Niven should realize what four years of occupation have meant. If this country had been occupied, I do not think that, in spite of your fundamental probability, your behaviour would have been very different. As far as de Gaulle is concerned, I do think he loves his country. I do not always approve of his policy, but I think it is better than the mess we should be plunged into, were he not there.

I think Peace News should rather put the stress on the Germans who have resisted the Hitlerian regime than try to justify the Hitlerian leaders and their accomplices. I am afraid the pacifists in this country do not know the German psychology. Facts are facts and we must not indulge in any wishful thinking. Individually Germans will certainly acknowledge your pacifist attitude. As a nation they won't. A true pacifist policy towards Germany now should therefore be to keep her under a strong rule and gradually teach the Germans to become less sheeplike and to get more individual responsibility and freedom. It is the task of the anti-Nazi Germans as well as ours. It may require several generations, because the process must necessarily be slow. But I believe it is the only one which is in accordance with a pacifist creed and that can succeed.

M. LECUYER.

23 Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent.

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HAMPSTEAD GROUP. Speaker: Sybil Morrison. Tues., Dec. 4, 8 p.m. 50 Saverne Rd., N.W.3. Buses 24, 187, and Hampstead Heath trolleys.

BIRMINGHAM SOCIALIST Forum. Debate Sun., Dec. 2, 7 p.m. I.L.P. Rooms, 38 John Bright St. "That Socialism can best be achieved by Pacifist Methods." Sidney White (P.P.U.), Edward Fletcher (I.L.P.). Free.

SAVE EUROPE FROM starvation! Public mtg., Streatham Baths, Tues., Dec. 4 at 7.45 p.m. Spkrs.: Victor Gollancz, R. R. Stokes, M.P., F. A. Sellers, K.C., M.C., Vera Brittain (Author and Novelist), Gerald Gardner (Friends Ambulance Unit), Chairman: The Bishop of Kingston.

LONDON FORUM. Public Lecture, John Middleton Murray on "The Human Predicament." Alliance Hall, Palmer St., Westminster. Dec. 3, 7.30 p.m.

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U.S.A. must follow the President

'OBSERVER' CONTINUED

THE affairs of poor Austria are looking up a little. At long last the Russians have agreed to the conversion of the currency, and a general election has been held. Three main parties have emerged, after the French pattern, which appears to be taking shape in Germany also: Communists, Socialists, and Catholic democrats (the Austrian People's party). That is not the British pattern. Probably it is much less stable. The Communists and Socialists are bound together by their anticlericalism; the Socialists and the Catholic democrats by their democracy. Durable coalition between the three will be hard to achieve.

Yet anything else has obvious dangers. A combination of Communists and Socialists means a deepening of the religious cleavage; a combination of Catholic democrats and Socialists would leave the Communists free to exploit the inevitable hardships of the industrial working class. The new political division obviously corresponds to the main currents of Continental opinion; but the problem of translating it into workable democratic government is a serious one.

If it were not for the international aspect the Communists could be ignored. For their defeat in a genuinely free election is overwhelming and significant. A Socialist-Catholic coalition would manifestly represent the great mass of Austrians.

But, of course, the Communists are a special case, and quite how they will react to the verdict of the polls—in Vienna or by remote control—remains to be seen. However, that verdict is inescapable, and first-hand experience of the Red Army must have contributed largely to it. Critics may now appreciate my scepticism as to the equity of Communist dominance in neighbouring countries where no election is likely to be held.

Law out of Nuremberg

IT is much too facile to dismiss the Nuremberg trials as a caricature of justice, because they cannot be fitted into the framework of existing conceptions of legality. Legality has also to adjust itself to social needs, if it is not to be brought into contempt. The indictment of the ruling class of Nazi Germany is a heavy one; and something which may still be called the conscience of Europe would be outraged if it were not pressed home.

The record of Hitler's address to his commanders on August 22, 1939, looks authentic, on internal evidence. If it is not an indictable offence, by accepted principles of law, for a Head of State to talk such abominations, or for his commanders to give ear to them, it is high time it was made one. So long as the accused are given full freedom of defence, as they are to be given, and so long as the trials are public, as they are, the Nuremberg trials may be not a farce, but the overdue beginnings of a new reign of Law.

Spirit of Heidelberg

IN this connection it is well to ponder the words spoken by the German philosopher, Karl Jaspers, the new Rector of Heidelberg University, spoken at the reopening of the Medical School on Aug. 15 last.

"We have not fallen into the hands of barbarian peoples, but of peoples who recognize as the foundation of their life the rights of man which in their history they once solemnly proclaimed."

Our fresh start cannot, however, simply take the form of a return to the conditions which existed before 1933. Too much has happened. The catastrophe has gone too deep. . . . It was possible in the collapse of all values to

seek for death—in 1933, the example, when after the breach of the constitution through a legal quibble the dictatorship was established and all opposition swept away in the delirium of a great part of our people. We could have sought for death when the lawlessness of the regime showed itself openly on June 30, 1934, or in the robbery, deportation and murder of our Jewish friends and fellow-citizens and, when in 1938 throughout the whole of Germany the synagogues—the houses of God—were to our indelible shame and guilt burnt to the ground. We could have sought death in the war when the Government from its very beginning acted in violation of the thesis of our greatest philosopher, Kant, who laid it down as a basic stipulation of international law that no acts must be committed in war which would make a later reconciliation absolutely impossible. Thousands in Germany have sought, or at least have found, death in opposition to the Government; most of them anonymously. We who survive have not sought death. When our Jewish friends were taken away, we did not go into the streets and cry aloud till we also met our death. We preferred to remain in life for the weak, if justifiable, reason that our death would not in any way have helped. It is our own fault that we are still alive. (Christian News-Letter, Nov. 14.)

The spirit that speaks there will not be outraged by the trial of the Nazi leaders; rather it would be outraged if they were not tried.

Stalin broods; Truman jumps

IT is notable that, at the time of writing, the Washington declaration on the atom-bomb had not yet been published in Russia. Those who profess to know Russian ways say that this is a good sign, indicating that Russia realizes that the declaration must be taken seriously. Not so good, perhaps, when we consider the implications of the fact that it is possible to withhold a statement of such international importance from the public so long. Since it seems to us that the secrecy, and not the policies of Russia are the most serious obstacle to the birth of confidence, we must set on the credit side that the freedom allowed to correspondents in Russia has increased since their united protest to Molotov.

Another point in regard to the declaration needs to be made. The course to which Mr. Attlee persuaded President Truman puts the President now palpably in advance of American public opinion. That is where an American President ought to be in these days. But President Truman has had to jump.

A task for U.N.O. to face

CRITICS have seized on the evident contradictions of the declaration. "The statesmen come out, in their sixth point, with the solution that they will share their secret with the Russians 'just as soon' as the new Commission has done what the first three points declare to be impossible—that is, to erect effective enforceable safeguards against the military use of atomic energy." (Economist, Nov. 24.)

For all that, the declaration is not nugatory. The impasse which it registers is real. And it is of the utmost importance that UNO should acquire some substantial reality by coming to grips with it. Until that is done, there is no possibility of easing relations between Russia and the West. That problem is one of immense difficulty, indeed one which one would pronounce quite insoluble, were it not for the pressure of atomic energy. But that pressure is real; nothing can conjure it away. And, however insoluble the problem looks, if regarded from habitual points of view, it must not be forgotten that there is now a power in existence so mighty that it can compel a change even in habitual points of view. "America will never consent to this; Russia will never consent to that"—are no longer true. The nations simply do not know what they may have consented to by 1950.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The general secretary's report in Peace News last week of the meeting of National Council should have stated that, because of recent Executive decisions, Roy Walker has resigned from Council and Executive.

W.R.I. clothing reached Europe

THE WRI have recently been able to send nine bales (nearly a ton) to Norway and nine more bales are ready for despatch to Norway and to Holland.

WRI welcome additional gifts of blankets, clothes, and shoes, which should be washed and repaired before they are sent. Needles, cotton, buttons, etc., are also urgently needed.

Under a special arrangement these bales are handed over to the WRI representative in the receiving country for distribution.

In the case of Holland, Pastor Hugenoltz has undertaken a special responsibility. There are 1,000 Rotterdam children aged 10-17,

mostly orphaned and homeless, who have lived recently by looting. The children are now in homes for delinquents, and are not eligible to receive clothes through official channels. Pastor Hugenoltz will be able to supply to these children any suitable clothes sent through the WRI.

RELIEF WORK

The Danish section are continuing relief work in Norway, particularly in Finnmark, and have been asked to extend it. In Prague relief work is being done for children from the concentration camps. Four castles have been adapted as "recovery homes" and up to now 240 children have been accommodated, of whom 32 have been brought to England. A new chapter in the work is now beginning as children are being taken to the Home from internment camps, which had been housing at least 1,500 children.

"ATOMIC HONOUR"

BOTH Britain and America, who are surely the most honourable belligerents in the world, have in fact used the atomic bomb not once but twice. It is a little remarkable to suppose that other and presumably more dishonourable belligerents will refrain, on humanitarian grounds, from doing what we ourselves have already done.

—Capt. Blackburn, MP, Nov. 22.

Pacifist echo at Nuremberg

ACCORDING to a Washington report reaching the Central Board, one of the charges against the twenty Nazi chiefs now on trial at Nuremberg relates to particularly relentless cruelty to pacifist groups in Germany. Sub-section D (3), (c), (iii) of the first count of the 24,000-word indictment includes the following allegation:

"The persecution by the Nazi conspirators of pacifist groups, including religious movements dedicated to pacifism, was particularly relentless and cruel."

IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

I AM sorry that we are late with our cards this year. Large quantities of three different cards are now available. Orders sent to Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1, will be dispatched as quickly as possible. Because we are late we need your support all the more. Although we have let you down we ask that you will not let us down! Order soon.

(i) Winter scene. Drawing by Thomas B. Pitfield. 3d.

(ii) Card with illuminated Thackeray quotation. Pitfield. 3d.

(iii) Attractive four colour woodcut by M. G. Turberville. 1d. (on sale elsewhere at a considerably higher price).

Three sample cards will be sent for 1s. 1d. Postage on all orders extra. Profits to PPU.

P. H. F.

PACIFIST COMPOSERS

NEW works by Michael Tippett and Benjamin Britten, both Sponsors of the PPU, have provided notable musical events in the past few weeks.

The performance by the Liverpool Philharmonic of Tippett's "Symphony (1945)" was commended by the New Statesman critic as "Tippett's finest work, that is, as good as anything being written today."

Britten and the Morley College Choir, under Michael Tippett, were performers at two concerts in commemoration of the Purcell anniversary. In addition to works by Purcell, there were new compositions in homage to Purcell by Britten.

P.N. SELLERS AT HYDE PARK

On a recent Sunday six literature-sellers including two with Peace News, were arrested at the "traditional" pitch outside Hyde Park. They were charged with wilful obstruction, and after two remands, convicted. One, with previous fines on similar charges, was fined; the others were bound over.

The magistrate said that under this charge it was not necessary to prove obstruction. He was satisfied that, on this occasion, there was very little, if any, actual obstruction. Nevertheless, a technical offence had been committed, and he warned the defendants that if they will "set themselves against the law" they must expect to come into conflict with the police.

Some of us feel that the matter cannot rest there. I would like, therefore, to hear from volunteers willing to sell Peace News at this pitch on Sunday afternoons.

ROGER PAGE

(PPU London Area Organiser).
8 Endsleigh Gardens, W.C.1.

EASTER YOUTH CONFERENCE

A Young Peoples' International Conference at Sherwood School, Epsom, is being arranged by PPU Youth Committee for Easter, 1946. In addition to lectures, discussions, etc., there will be walks and games. Particulars on application to Patrick Figgie, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

WORDS OF PEACE - No. 151

The pure money motive, like the power motive, has failed humanity. What is needed in its stead is a conscious lesson learned and re-learned until it becomes an unconscious part of our make-up, that we must regain an essentially religious regard for the biological values of Nature. We must cease thinking that we know better than God and realize that we are only part of a whole which cannot with impunity destroy life in soil or plant; in animal or man.

—The Earl of Portsmouth.

Wanted: 200 German children for rescue

ALREADY over 200 offers to give hospitality to German children during the coming winter have been received as a result of the suggestion made by Mark and Irmgard Fitzroy in Peace News. In addition, a number of people who are unable to offer accommodation have indicated their willingness to help either with financial assistance or the provision of rationed foods, clothing or clothing coupons. Two women have promised to give £20 towards the support of a German child, as well as half a pound of margarine, five points, and a parcel of non-rationed food a month!

Reference to the appeal was made in the Sunday Times.

Although the initial response has been encouraging, many more offers will be required if a strong case of admitting the children is to be presented to the Government. Offers should be addressed to the Service Secretary, Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

NO CONSCRIPTION

SPEAKERS:

C. E. M. JOAD : Vera BRITAIN
R. W. SORESENSEN, M.P. : Flying Officer N. H. LEVER, M.P. etc.

Chairman: Rev. A. D. Belden, D.D.
PUBLIC MEETING ALL SEATS FREE
FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON RD, N.W.1
Wednesday, 5th December, 7 p.m.

NO CONSCRIPTION COUNCIL
6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1 (Eus. 5501)

For issue when the Demobilization Bill becomes law:

THE RELEASE OF C.O.S

(3d., by post 4d.)

A complete explanation with the official Army group tables

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All those interested in the life and work of the late

PIERRE CERESOLE

will be welcome at a meeting of commemoration to be held at

2.15 p.m. on

Saturday, 1st December
at WALSTON HOUSE, PULFORD ST.,
LONDON, S.W.1.

(nearest tube station Victoria: bus 24 to St. George's Squ.)

Appreciations will be spoken by:

John W. Harvey Lilian Stevenson
Jean Inebnit Agatha Harrison
Donald C. Bentley

NORTH LONDON PLAYERS

A repeat performance of
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By Bryan Anstey and Roy Walker
Produced by Leslie F. Pitt, L.R.A.M.

at

CRIPPLEGATE THEATRE

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Saturday, Dec. 15, 1945, at 7 p.m.

3s. 6d. 2s. 6d. 1s. 6d.

All seats numbered and reserved. Tickets from Dick Sheppard House; Peace News; and Nellie Harby, 74 Ingleton Rd., N.18

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Thanks to translators
More volunteers wanted!
Specially for Russian, Czech and Dutch

There are now thirty-three members of the PPU giving the WRI tremendous service in translating. We are overworking all of them. If you can help, please write to the

War Resisters' International
11 Abbey Road, Enfield, Middx.

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